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"Tears of Women to Aid Labor Freedom"

Gompers Leads Fight Against Eight-Hour Measure—Federation Defeats Resolution Indorsing Legislation—Leaders in Squabble Over "Divinity" and "Affinity"

San Francisco, Cal.—"I will not trust the fate of labor to politics. I want the travail of sacrifice and the tears of our women, if necessary, upon which to build labor's economic freedom," cried President Gompers during his attack on a resolution indorsing legislative methods in obtaining a universal eight-hour law.

Gompers's fight against the measure was one of the liveliest incidents of the thirty-fifth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which did not come to a close until last Tuesday. The last session was made the stormiest of the convention when Gompers and John Fitzpatrick, president of the Illinois Federation, engaged in heated debates.

The resolution on the eight-hour law was defeated by a vote of 8,486 to 6,396. The convention went on record in favor of economic pressure only to obtain shorter hours.

The vote on the eight-hour resolution was a victory for President Gompers, who, in an impassioned speech, declared that the Socialist party was behind the attempt to force the federation to indorse the proposed eight-hour day legislation.

After the vote was taken Fitzpatrick stated that the action of the convention affected only 2,000,000 organized workers. This brought about an acrimonious dispute between him and Gompers, toward the end of which Gompers refused to read to the convention a communication from his opponent. "I'm just as good as you are," remarked Fitzpatrick to the president before resuming his seat, "and you can put that in your pipe and smoke it."

Fitzpatrick's anger was increased through misunderstanding a word used by Gompers. Gompers said to Fitzpatrick and Delegate Barnes: "Between you two it looks like a case of a divinity which shapes our ends," Fitzpatrick thought he said "affinity."

The convention went on record in favor of an American merchant marine, and refused to take favorable cognizance of naval increases. In accordance with action taken at a previous session, a committee was appointed to survey the problem of unemployment and vagrancy in the United States.

The convention adjourned to meet next year in Baltimore.

Effect of Bigger's Ruling On Workmen's Law Not Serious, Yaple Says

Commission May Sue Employers of Ohio Who do Not Settle with Injured Employees, Chairman Holds—Decision by Columbus Judge is to be Taken to the Higher Courts.

Columbus, Ohio.—The operation of the workmen's compensation law will not be affected seriously by the decision yesterday of Common Pleas Judge T. M. Bigger, of Columbus, that Section 27 of the law was unconstitutional. It was declared tonight by Judge Wallace D. Yaple, Chairman of the Industrial Commission.

Judge Yaple speaks as a lawyer who helped push through the Supreme Court the fundamental question of the constitutionality of the act, and has helped administer both the old and the new laws. In fact he contributed in a large way to the construction of the present compulsory compensation law and has helped decide many thousands of cases brought under its provisions.

While the one section is knocked out the decision does not cripple the legal machinery of the act to an extent that would make it ineffective. Enough is left to make the law effective and the administration of it will go ahead.

To Be Taken to Higher Courts.

The decision of Judge Bigger will be taken to the higher Courts for review in order that a definite and final decision on the law may be had. The fact that the constitutionality of Section 27 has been submitted to a number of the Common Pleas Courts of the State and upheld, in suits exactly like the one decided by Judge Bigger, is enough to make imperative, officials say, that the question be taken at once to the highest court in the State and a final construction of the law there secured.

In his statement covering the case and the decision Judge Yaple said: "I have not seen the opinion of Judge Bigger, of the Common Pleas Court of Franklin County, holding Section 27 of the workmen's compensation act of 1913 unconstitutional, but I understand that he held that section to be violative of that part of our State constitution which provides that the right of trial by jury shall be

inviolable, and further that it attempts to confer judicial power upon the Industrial Commission of Ohio, contrary to the constitutional provision which confines the exercise of such powers to the courts.

Gives Meaning of Section 27.

"The constitutional amendment of 1912, authorized the Legislature to enact a compensation law providing for the creation of a fund to be maintained by compulsory contributors thereto from employers, out of which fund claims for compensation on account of injury and death occurring to employees should be paid. The act of 1913 was passed pursuant to the constitutional amendment of 1912, and Section 27 provides, in substance, that when an employer fails or refuses to contribute to the State fund, or to comply with that provision of the act that permits him to elect to pay compensation direct to his employees injured in the course of employment, employees shall be entitled to be paid compensation in the amount provided by the act direct from the employer, instead of from the State fund to which the employer has not contributed. It further provides that the Industrial Commission shall have power to determine the amount of compensation due such injured employee from his employer, and if it is not paid within the time specified therein, that it shall be collected by civil action in the courts, brought by the State for the benefit of the injured employee. This Judge Bigger decides can not be done.

"Section 27 was one of the provisions designed to make the workmen's compensation law compulsory, but since another provision of the law authorizes the Industrial Commission to sue defaulting employers for the premiums due from them, a provision to which the commission has found it necessary to resort only in rare instances, the decision of Judge Bigger will not seriously affect the law."

Grazed in the Fog.

It is not usual for a ship on the high seas to elect to cast anchor on the deck of a passing steamer, but that is what a four-masted schooner did once in the Atlantic. The two vessels grazed in the fog, and the "catted" port anchor of the schooner caught in the steamer's deck "by a fluke." It fastened to an engineer's stateroom in such a manner as to bar his exit, but fortunately the chain parted just as the room was being ripped into fragments. The schooner fol-

lowed the steamer to its destination to recover her anchor.

A Burst of Eloquence.

This is from Australia: "Gentlemen, a member of this house has taken advantage of my absence to speak my nose behind my back. I hope that the next time he abuses me behind my back like a coward he will do it to my face like a man and not go skulking into the thicket to assail a gentleman who isn't present to defend himself."—Exchange.

FT. WAYNE STRIKE CASE THROWN OUT OF COURT

Indianapolis.—Judge Anderson of the federal court has thrown the so-called "Ft. Wayne strike case" out of court, on the ground that the case should be heard by a State court.

The proceedings were started by a Philadelphia trust company which holds bonds of the Ft. Wayne and Northern Indiana Traction company, whose motormen and conductors are striking to enforce their right to organize. The street car company also conducts a lighting plant in competition with the Ft. Wayne municipal lighting plant. To show their sympathy for the strikers, citizens who had formerly patronized the company's plant, began patronizing the municipal plant, and the eastern trust company asked Judge Anderson to issue an injunction against Mayor Hovey and other Ft. Wayne officials, who were charged with conspiring to injure the business of the company and make payment on bonds impossible.

Judge Anderson has dismissed the plea on the ground that the street car company, which was not made a party to the suit, was both a necessary and proper party to the bill of complaint. This means that the case, if it is tried again, must be heard in a State court. Mayor Hovey charges that the injunction proceedings was an attempt to put the municipal lighting plant out of business. He said:

"We have had nothing to do with the real cause, the street car strike, further than to make an appeal to the company to arbitrate."

Recently the company asked the mayor to appoint special police to protect its property and strikebreakers from "possible" violence. The city official answered that as the company had refused to arbitrate and thereby protect the public, he did not favor using the public's money as requested and that the company could pay for its own police service, as provided by law.

ELECTRICAL AGE IS NEXT.

Chicago.—Electricity is changing the city, the factory and the home, just as radically as steam changed it, declared Dr. Steinmetz, electrical engineer, in an address in this city.

"Steam built up our great cities with their congestion and slums. Electricity will break them down and scatter the population evenly over the continent, because electricity can be transmitted anywhere by simple transmission wires. Steam must be used where generated, and where there is a large labor supply," said Dr. Steinmetz.

"With full electrical development, the labor supply need not be right at the factory door. It can be moved cheaply and quickly morning and evening. There will be no necessity for locating near where the power can be produced the cheapest, as in the steam factory, because the power can be carried over the wires.

"The factories will then go where the land is cheapest. Electricity will run errands in the home.

"The cost is all that is standing in the way. But the high cost is due to the limited use of the electrical motor rather than any natural disability. It is as simple as an alarm clock and should and would be as cheap if it were used as generally. All we need is better distribution. The more we use the lower the cost per unit and the more electricity will supplant steam and hand power, just as steam once supplanted hand power."

INSISTS ON LIVING WAGE.

Washington.—"Three dollars a week to a working girl is an impossible living wage, and any industry that can't do considerably better than that has no right to live," declared Dr. A. J. McKelway, secretary of the national child labor committee, in a speech last Sunday evening.

"The old superstition that women work merely for pin money is exploded," he said. "Many women have to work, and of them many have some to support a family. There is no reason, then, that they should be denied a living wage, for if they are so denied they are thrown on their parents, the community or the charities for support.

"The lesson should be inculcated into the employing class that no industry is fit to survive that does not pay a living wage."

AN OBSERVING IOWA EDITOR.

Des Moines, Iowa.—Discussing the burning of workers in New York fire traps, the editor of the Register and Leader says:

"It would be too great an imposition upon the owners of mills and factories to compel them to safeguard the lives of workers. Property before lives is the accepted doctrine, and not in New York alone."

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His First "Invention."

Edison's taste for invention began when he was quite a little boy, although the first time he attempted to be original he was a failure.

One day, when he was about five years old, his parents missed him for quite a long time. After a prolonged and fruitless search all over the house his elder sister happened to go into the fowl house, where she discovered the missing boy sitting on the floor, his clothes smothered in broken eggs.

"What on earth are you doing there, Tom?" she asked in astonishment.

"Well," replied the youthful genius gravely, "I thought if the hens would hatch eggs by sitting on them so could I!"

Room Dust.

Dust is everywhere, but the worst kind of dust is that which is confined within the four walls of a room. The dust is always germ laden, because it is infested with effete matter thrown off by human bodies.

The Old Hoss Room.

Alvin Adams when the express business was in its infancy had an office and two horses in New York city. One of these horses was a fine, fast animal and the other an old, broken down nag. Packages that were to be delivered immediately he sent out behind the fast horse. Of goods that didn't have to be rushed he would say, "Leave them for the old hoss." In every express office to this day there is an "old hoss" room, where undelivered and unclaimed packages are kept.—Argonaut.

Ancient Trade Unions.

Seven thousand years ago there were trade unions in Nineveh and Babylon, and so strict were their rules that in some cases the penalty of death was inflicted for infringing them. Each man's work was strictly defined, and even the number of hours that he was allowed to work was stated in the charter of his guild or union. Later exactly the same state of affairs existed in Pompeii, and inscriptions have been discovered stating specific appointments of officials to trade unions.

Misplaced Sympathy.

Through the busy Glasgow streets a stalwart policeman led a little child by the hand.

A motherly looking woman paused before them for a moment. Then, in a sudden burst of sympathy, she bent over the child and kissed her.

"Puir wee lamb!" she breathed softly. "She looks sae cauld and starved like, and she hysae been washed fur a week. Some folks canna be trusted wi' bairns; wicked, cruel things they are. Whaur did ye fin' the wean, policeman?" "Find the wean, woman?" snorted the policeman angrily. "I didna find her at a'. She's ma ain bairn!"—Dundee Advertiser.

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